

Serial No.: 10/624,528

REMARKS

According to the foregoing, claims 1-36 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice, and claims 37-70 are added and pending for consideration, which is respectfully requested.

According to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) Official Gazette Notice (OG Notice) June 13, 2006, establishing the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program between the USPTO and the Japan Patent Office, a request for participation in the PPH Pilot Program, including a petition to make the present above-identified pending US patent application special under the PPH pilot program and an information disclosure statement, are filed with the USPTO concurrently with this Preliminary Amendment, and according to the foregoing all pending claims are cancelled and new claims 37-70 are added all of which correspond or sufficiently correspond to the allowable/patentable claims in the JPO patent application no. 2003-142582 (Japanese patent No. 3784781) from which the present above-identified US patent application claims priority under 35 USC 119(a) and 37 CFR 1.55.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application. Entry and consideration of the claims and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,
STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: March 13, 2007

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on March 13, 2007
By: Mehdi D. Sheikerz
Date: March 13, 2007